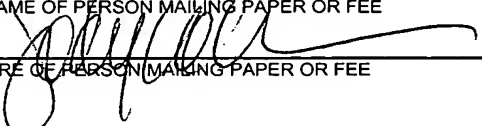


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"  
"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NO. EL 992244139  
DATE OF DEPOSIT: January 6, 2004  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS BEING DEPOSITED  
WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST  
OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" SERVICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10 ON THE DATE  
INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR  
PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Jody Cohan  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TYPED NAME OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER OR FEE

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	)	Group Art Unit:
	)	
Claudia Joost, et al.	)	Examiner:
	)	
Serial No.	)	
	)	
Filed: January 6, 2004	)	Docket No. RICHT-45028
	)	
For: EXHAUST SILENCER	)	
	)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir or Madam:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97, enclosed herewith are  
reference patents relating generally to the above-identified application. These  
references comprise patents of which Applicant was aware at the time of  
preparation of the present application. For the convenience of the Examiner,  
these references are listed on the attached PTO Form PTO-SB 08A.

It is requested that the enclosed reference patents be considered in the examination of this application and that their consideration be made of written record in the application file.

Respectfully submitted,

KELLY BAUERSFELD LOWRY & KELLEY, LLP

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Scott W. Kelley  
Reg. No. 30,762  
Attorney for Applicant

SWK:jc  
Enclosures

6320 Canoga Avenue  
Suite 1650  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
(818) 347-7900

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

**Complete if Known**

Application Number

Filing Date

January 6, 2004

First Named Inventor

Claudia Joost

Art Unit

Examiner Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sheet

1

of

1

Attorney Docket Number

RICHT-45028

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> *Number <sup>4</sup> *Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		DE 199 24 888 A1		Menzel		
		DE 197 26 059 A1		Sato		
		DE 698 05 312 T2		Karlsson		

Examiner  
Signature

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.*